

2

Round Beauty

MICK TAKEUCHI

0002

THE SOUL

go!Comi

OF MANGA

Round Beauty

A grisly murder leads to shocking discoveries about her fellow Tyers as Chiko learns exactly what Aya sacrificed for his powers. Things get even more complicated when another spinner arrives. Isora is beautiful, competent - and might be Akao's destined love! As if Chiko doesn't have enough problems, she uses her powers once again to save a little girl from torment...only to have her own thread turn against her!



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9 781605 100098

FROM THE CREATOR OF
HER MAJESTY'S
Dog

visit our website at www.gocomi.com

Round Beauty

2

No, I'm not!!
It just got that
way from work!



Proud of your
ripped body, huh,
you narcissist?



You're proud,
aren't you?

Round Beauty

STORY AND ART BY
MICK TAKEUCHI

VOLUME 2



go!comi

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A Go! Comi manga

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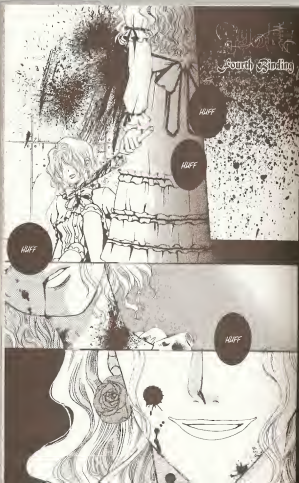
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Fourth Binding

fourth
binding
5

table of
contents

fifth
binding
49

sixth
binding
95

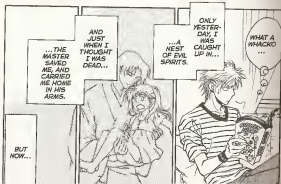
seventh
binding
139

off
recording
#1...93

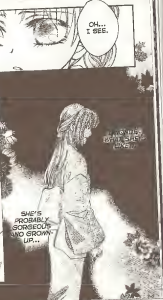
off
recording
#2...193

OUR STORY SO FAR

High school girl Chiyoko has the power to see the mythical red threads that connect lovers. This leads to her being bound by contract to Shirogane, one of the five colored threads that harbor mysterious powers. In return for this, she is trapped in the body of a child. Forced to join the hot hand of Onmyoji called the Tensei, she must learn to control her power while seeing the world in a whole new way.









CHAAAARGE!

HMM, I
WONDER WHAT
AKEO-SAN AND
HIS GIRL ARE
DOING...



FINE, IF
THAT'S
HOW IT'S
GONNA
BE...



NEXT, YOU
SHOULD
SHAKE
OUT THE
COMFORTERS
...

STRAAACH



DON'T
FORGET
THAT THE
TREES NEED
TRIMMING!

I
CAN'T
...

...REACH!

A little harder,
please.

Do that
shave next!

And that
one!



JUST A
LITTLE HELP
WITH THE
CHORES.

DON'T
WORRY,
I WON'T ASK
YOU TO DO
ANYTHING
ILLEGAL.

Responsible for all the housework?

Of course.
It gets the mind.
And I get a kick
out of it.



But, do I
have to wear
this maid
outfit?

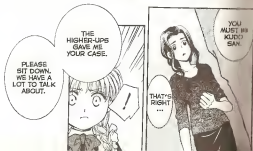
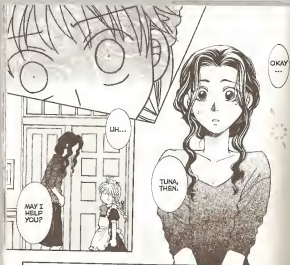


NOW THEN,
I'LL START
YOU OFF WITH
SOMETHING
LIGHT.



...YOU'RE
JOK-
ING.

YOU EXPECT
ME TO CLEAN
THIS WHOLE
PLACE?!





THEY SAY
HE CLAIMS
A VICTIM
EVERY THREE
MONTHS.

KILLER

VAMPIRE MURDER

The third
victim
so far

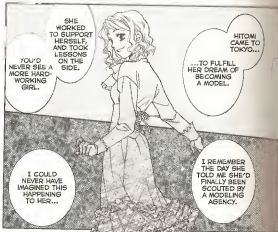
Bodies found
drained of blood

SO, THE
KILLER'S
STILL AT
LARGE?



OH!

YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT THAT
STRING OF
MURDERS
PEOPLE ARE
BLAMING ON
A VAMPIRE!



SHE
WORKED
TO SUPPORT
HERSELF,
AND TOOK
LESSONS
ON THE SIDE.

YOU'D
NEVER SEE A
MORE HARD-
WORKING
GIRL...

HITOMI
CAME TO
TOKYO...

...TO FULFILL
HER DREAM OF
BECOMING
A MODEL.

I COULD
NEVER HAVE
WAGINED THIS
HAPPENING
TO HER...

I REMEMBER
THE DAY SHE
TOLD ME SHE'D
FINALLY BEEN
SCOUTED BY
A MODELING
AGENCY.



...MY
LITTLE SISTER
HITOMI WAS
KILLED.

THREE
MONTHS
AGO...

I'M
FAMILIAR
WITH THE
INCIDENT.

IT WAS
ON THE
NEWS FOR
A WHILE.

...AND
DISCARDED
IN THE
RIVER.

HER BODY
WAS FOUND
ALMOST
COMPLETELY
DRAINED OF
BLOOD...

THE
KILLER
AND THE
VICTIM...
...ARE
CONNECTED
BY A STRONG
NEGATIVE
BOND.

WE
OFTEN GET
CASES THE POLICE
CAN'T
HANDLE.



NOW'S OUR
CHANCE TO
SHOW YOU
OUR REAL
WORTH AS
TYERS!

OKAY,
KIDDIES.
YOU'RE
STAYING TO
WATCH THE
HOUSE.

WHAT?/?
WHAT
GIVES!/?



I CAN'T
LEAVE THIS
TO THE
POLICE.

I SWEAR...

...HE WON'T
GET AWAY
WITH IT!!

PLEASE
...

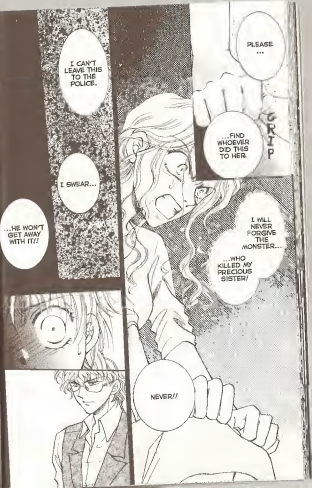
...FIND
WHOEVER
DID THIS
TO HER.

CRIP

I WILL
NEVER
FORGIVE
THE
MONSTER...

...WHO
KILLED MY
PRECIOUS
SISTER!

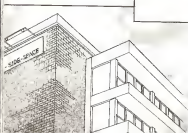
NEVER!!





...DON'T
LOSE IT,
OKAY?

BUT
IF YOU
INSIST...
...ON
STICKING
YOUR
NECK
OUT...



IF WE DON'T
GET THIS GUY
SOON, HE'LL
KILL AGAIN!

I'M
SORRY,
BUT
...

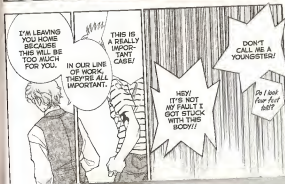
PLUS,
HITOMI-SAN
WAS KILLED
THREE
MONTHS
AGO!

YEAH!

AKE-NI'S
M.I.A.!
YOU'LL
NEED HELP
WITH THIS
CASE!



...YOU
YOUNGSTERS
WILL ONLY GET
IN MY WAY.



I'M LEAVING
YOU HOME
BECAUSE
THIS WILL BE
TOO MUCH
FOR YOU.

IN OUR LINE
OF WORK,
THEY'RE ALL
IMPORTANT.

THIS IS
A REALLY
IMPOR-
TANT
CASE!

HEY!
IT'S NOT
MY FAULT I
GOT STUCK
WITH THIS
BODY!!

DON'T
CALL ME A
YOUNGSTER!

Do I look
four feet
tall?

ARE YOU
GOING TO TELL
ME YOU CAN
SUDDENLY SPIN
OJIN WHERE
THERE'S
NO EARTH
INVOLVED?

YOU
WANT
TO HELP?

Spin with
the dream!

Help for
the dream!

YEAH!!
GIVE
US A
CHANCE!!

AND
HER
BODY
WAS
FOUND
IN THE
RIVER.

WE'RE
ON THE
FIFTH
FLOOR.

HOW
CAN YOU
POSSIBLY
HELP?

AS FOR YOU
YOU HAVE
NO CONTROL
OVER WHEN YOUR
SHIROGANE SPINS.



NOW
THEN...

WHERE
TO
START?

SO, YOU
REALLY
DON'T
WIND
LOSING
YOUR
NECK,
HUH?

COME ON!
YOU KNOW I
CAN'T JUST
SIT BACK AND
MISS ALL THE
ACTION!

PULL

I am
a man!

SO THIS WAS
HITOMI SAN'S
PLACE, HUH?

I DIDN'T
KNOW YOU
COULD PUT
SO MANY
FRILLS IN
ONE ROOM.

Is this
Sofie's
Lobby
after?

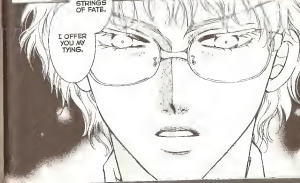
I'VE NEVER
ONCE SEEN
YOU USE
THE FIVE
COLORED
THREADS!

BESIDES,
WHAT CAN
YOU DO,
AYA-SAN?

HEY!
THAT'S
NO WAY
TO TALK
TO ME!

I don't
need
them...







!?



WAIT,
NO.



THIS
IS...!!



WATCH
OUT!!



OH, MY
GOD!

IT'S
HITOMI-
SAN!

EMERGE



IT'S THE
VICTIM'S
MEMORIES



I WONDER
IF THIS
LADY'S
FROM THE
AGENCY
TOO.



AND THIS
LOOKS LIKE
A PHOTO
SHOOT.



THIS
MUST
BE WHEN
SHE GOT
SCOUTED
AS A
MODEL.

...TIE
THE STRINGS
OF FATE...

...SO THE
KILLER WOULD
GO TO JAIL...

WELL
THEN
...!!
HOW
ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO ARREST
THE
KILLER?!

THEY'LL
NEVER
BELIEVE
YOU.

"I SAW THE
MURDERER
IN A STRING
VERSION?"

I
WASN'T
HIRED
TO...



THIS IS
OUR JOB.

YOU TOOK
ON THIS
CASE
KNOWING
THAT?!

DON'T
TELL ME
WE'RE
HELPING...

...THE
CLIENT
TAKE
REVENGE
ON THE
KILLER?!



OKAY.

THAT'S
ENOUGH.

RISE



BUT THAT
PERSON...

...WAS THE
KILLER?!



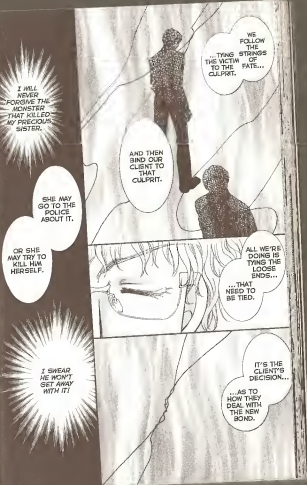
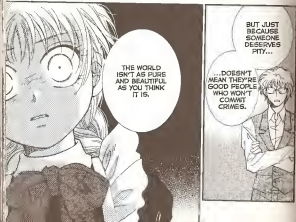
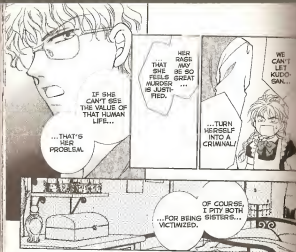
W...
WE HAVE
TO GO
TO THE
POLICE,
RIGHT
NOW?!

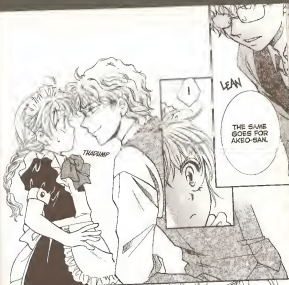
MOST
LIKELY,
IT WAS.

AND
TELL
THEM
WHAT?

DASH

IF WE
HAD KEPT
WATCHING,
WE'D KNOW
FOR SURE.







I'M JUST FIGURING OUT HOW TO GET TO THE KILLER BEFORE THAT LAME-ASS FOUR-EYES!!



OH, IT'S NOT THAT.



HEY...

DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO HIM.



OH, I HAVE A LEAD.

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FIND HIM WITHOUT ANY LEADS?

What are you talking about?



YOU SAW HITOMI-SAN'S ROOM, DIDN'T YOU?



MY FIRST BIG CLUE IS GOTHIC LOLITA!

HUH?



AYA-
NI...

YOU TEASED HER TOO HARD.

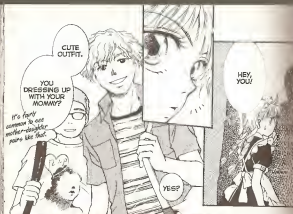


HEH
HEH...

I CAN'T HELP IT. SHE'S JUST SO RIGHT-EYED.



I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE LIKE HER.



CUTE
OUTFIT.

YOU
DRESSING UP
WITH YOUR
MOMMY?

It's fairly
common to see
mother-daughter
pairs like that.

HEY,
YOU!

YES?

...
SCOUTING
MODELS?

EVER
THOUGHT
ABOUT
MODELING?

ARE
THESE
GUYS...

YOU
ALONE?

Oh, great.
They think I'm
dressed as
Gothic Lolita.

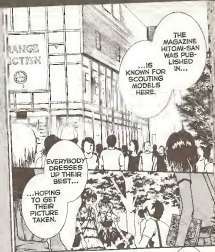


TAKE
YOUR
HANDS
OFF
HER!

WANNA
COME
SEE?

WE'RE
FILMING AT
A STUDIO
NOT FAR
FROM
HERE.

MAYBE THEY
KNOW SOME-
THING ABOUT
HITOMI-SAN.



I
DON'T
BELIEVE
THIS...

FOR
CRYING
OUT LOUD!

EVERYBODY
DRESSES
UP THEIR
BEST...

...HOPING
TO GET
THEIR
PICTURE
TAKEN.

...IS
KNOWN FOR
SCOUTING
MODELS
HERE.

THE
MAGAZINE
HITOMI-SAN
WAS PUBLISHED
IN...



SO I
HOPE
YOU
SEE,
TSUNA,
THAT-



THIS
PLACE IS
PACKED WITH
TOURISTS.

OF
ALL THE
DAYS TO
FORGET
MY CELL
...!

TSUNA
!?

HOW'D
WE GET
SEPARATED
SO FAST!?



DID YOU
REACH
YOUR
BROTHER?



HEY,
TSUNA?
IT'S ME,
CHIKO.

YEAH, I'LL
BE WAITING
AT THE
CROSS-
WALK.
UH-HUH.

COME
QUICK,
'KAY?



YEAH/ THANKS
FOR
SAVING
ME...

...FROM
THOSE
BAD GUYS
AND...

LETTING
ME USE
YOUR
PHONE.



BEAM

...BE
SNARED
BY
THOSE
GOONS.

I
COULDN'T
LET A
SWEET
LITTLE
GIRL LIKE
YOU...

NO
PROBLEM
AT ALL!



What a
nice guy!

Not to
mention
the way he
treated me!

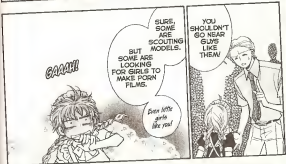


WHAT...?

SHE'S
ALREADY
CONTRACTED
TO MY
AGENCY.



OF ALL
THE...!



SURE,
SOME
ARE
SCOUTING
MODELS.

BUT
SOME ARE
LOOKING
FOR GIRLS TO
MAKE PORN
FILMS.

Even little
girls
like you!

YOU
SHOULDN'T
GO NEAR
GUYS
LIKE THEM!



A
WOMAN?



WITH
LONG WAVY
HAIR, LIKE
THIS!

YEAH!



REALLY?/
DID YOU EVER
SEE A WOMAN
SCOUT HER?/

I MAY
HAVE
TAKEN
SOME
SHOTS
OF
HER.

*She's a real
girl, after all.*



OH...
OKAY.

THERE
ARE PLENTY
OF FEMALE
SCOUTS IN
THIS FIELD,
BUT...
DESCRIPTION.



THERE ARE
EVEN RUMORS
OF PEOPLE
MAKING SNUFF
FILMS!



OKAY,
TAKE
CARE.
WATCH
OUT FOR
GOONS.



THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH, BUT
I HAVE TO
GO NOW!

OH WELL,
BETTER
GET BACK
TO TSUNA.

BOW



OH!
AND I
PROMISE...

...I HAVE
NOTHING
TO DO WITH
PORN.

It says

Shinsuke Miyahara

Shinsuke Miyahara

ACTUALLY,
I'M A SCOUT
MYSELF.



AND I
JUST LOVE
CUTE LITTLE
GIRLS!!

OW



AH,
YES...



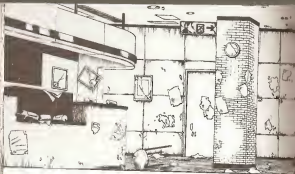
HAVE
YOU EVER
SEEN THIS
GIRL
AROUND?



UM...

I HAVE
SEEN HER.





IF THEY
PLAYED LIVE
MUSIC HERE,
THE WALLS
ARE SOUND-
PROOF.
IT'S THE
PERFECT
PLACE FOR
A MURDER.



WELL
...
I CAN
SEE PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN
HERE
BEFORE,
BUT...

...IT
LOOKS
PRETTY
DESERTED
NOW.



HERE
GOES!

WAIT
A
SEC-
OND!
WHY
AM I
SHOWING
YOU THIS
PLACE!/?



SO
THAT'S THE
BUILDING,
HUM?

YEP.

IT USED
TO BE A
CLUB, BUT
IT'S NOT
USED ANY-
MORE.



HUH!/?

HIT REDIAL
AND GET MY
RIDE TO MEET
US AT THIS
BUILDING!

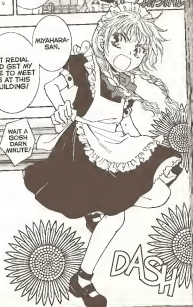
NOYAHAGA-
SAN.



YOU'RE
GOING IN
THERE!/?
ALONE
!/?

WAIT A
GOSH
DARN
WHITE!

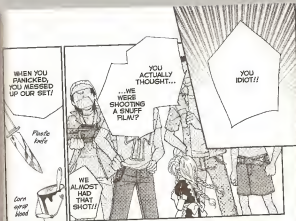
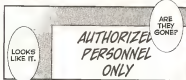
WHY WON'T
YOU LISTEN
TO ME!/?

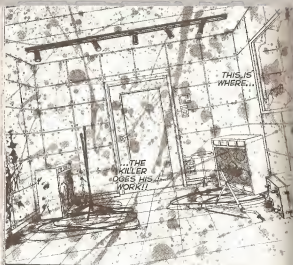


DASH



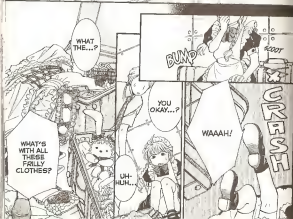






THIS IS WHERE...

...THE KILLER DOES HIS WORK!!



WHAT THE...?

BUMP

ROOT

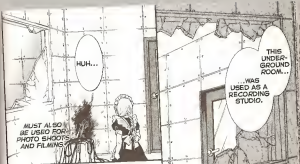
YOU OKAY...?

WAAAAH!

UKEKEKE

UH-HUH...

WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE FRILLY CLOTHES?



HUH...

THIS UNDERGROUND ROOM...

...WAS USED AS A RECORDING STUDIO.

MUST ALSO BE USED FOR PHOTO SHOTS AND FILMING



BUT WHAT'S THIS WEIRD FEELING?

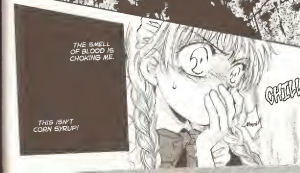
IT'S HARD TO BREATHE

I FEEL HEAVY...



THE AIR'S

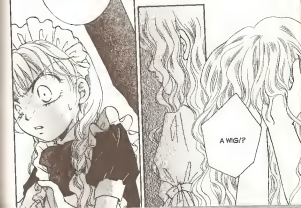
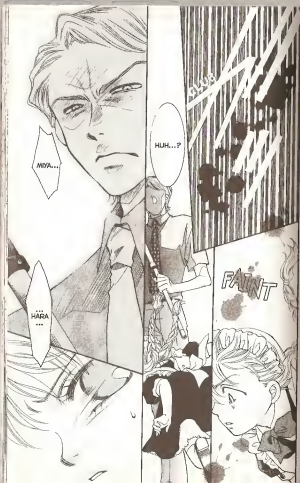
SO STALE



THE SMELL OF BLOOD IS CHOKING ME.

THIS ISN'T CORN SYRUP!

GRILL





...I
KNOW
HOW
YOUR
MINDS
WORK?

YOU
REALLY
DON'T
THINK...

*Get me
there.
Don't
let her
huff!*

A...
AYA-NI?

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING
HERE!?



...ONE
THING'S
FOR
SURE: SHE
WAS A
BEAUTY.

THERE'S
NO DOUBT
SHE WAS
APPROACHED
HERE.

I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT
THE SECOND
ONE, BUT...

...AND
LEARNED
THAT THE
FIRST ONE
HAD BEEN
SCOUTED
HERE.

I RE-
SEARCHED
THE PAST
MURDER
VICTIMS...



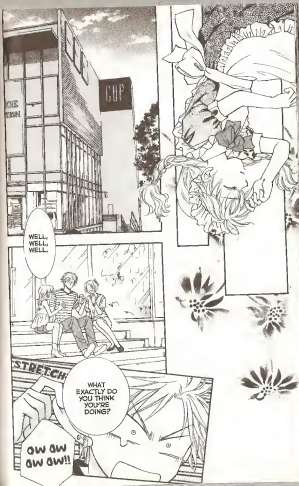
NO, IT
WAS A
MAN.

THAT
MUST
BE THAT
LONG-
HAIRED
WOMAN
WE
SAW!

...HAD AN
EMPLOYEE
QUIT JUST
BEFORE HER
MURDER.

THE
AGENCY
THAT
SCOUTED
THE FIRST
GIRL...

ALSO
...



WELL,
WELL,
WELL.

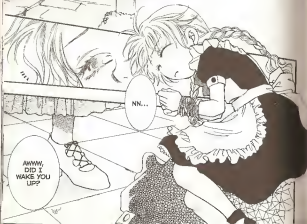
WHAT
EXACTLY
DO
YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
DOING?

OW OW
OW OW!!



NAAAAAAH!

He has had!



NN...

AWWWW,
DID I
WAKE YOU
UP?



BY THE
WAY...

WHERE'S
OUR LITTLE
PRINCESS?

...HAD
"PECULIAR"
HOBBIES.

APPARENTLY,
THAT
EMPLOYEE...



SHE
CALLED
ME TO SAY
SHE'D BE
WAITING
HERE,
BUT...

...IT'S
BEEN OVER
AN HOUR.

BEATS
ME.

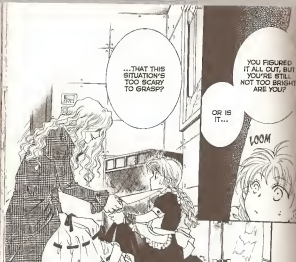
So you
decided to
pull up
some girls
instead?

They
came to
me!



KNOWING
THAT
LITTLE
HELL-
RAISER

...SHE'S
PROBABLY
GOTTEN
HERSELF
INTO A MESS
OF TROUBLE,
AS USUAL.



OR IS
IT...

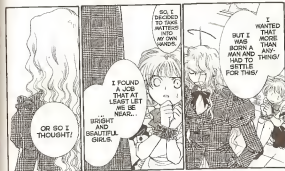
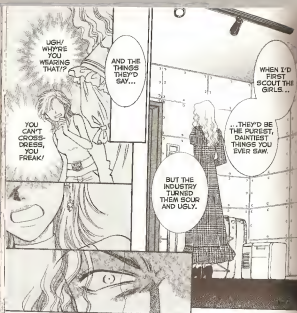
LOOM

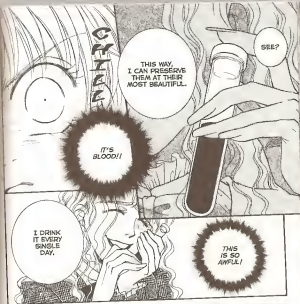
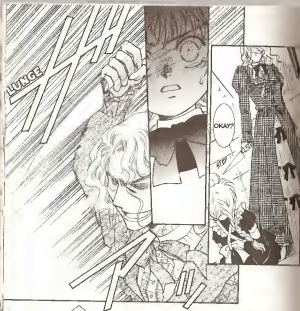


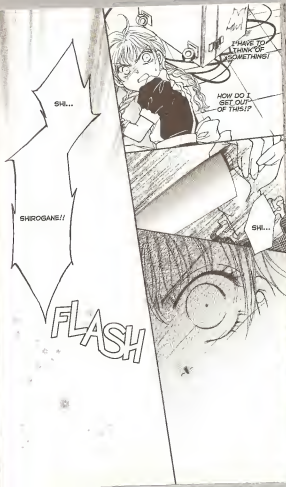
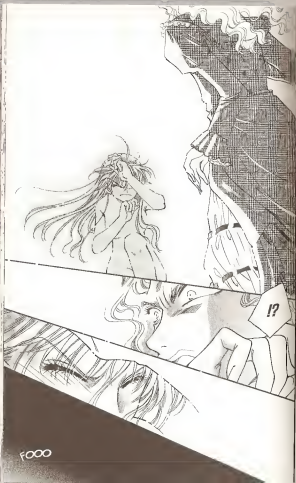
YOU'RE
THE KILLER!?

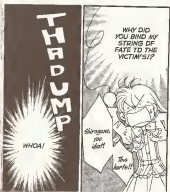
M...
MIYAHARA-
SAN...



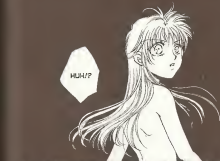








BLOOD!?



SLAP

WHAT...



...IS THAT?



THE
SLAP
WAS
41cm

SW
SW

NO...I'M
SCARED!

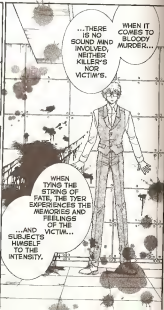
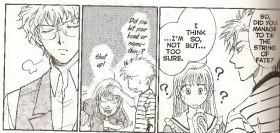
CONTINUING...

...SLOWLY...



SW
SCAP

HELP
AS
SCAP
II





THAT WAS
THE PRICE I
PAID FOR MY
SHARE OF THE
FIVE COLORED
THREADS.



YOU
LOST...

...YOUR
HEART?

*Just know
that I
have no
feelings.*

THAT'S A
SECRET.



BUT...
HOW?



YOU
CAN TAKE IT
FROM HERE,
MISS.



...THE
WORLD
FROM
A FAR
CALMER
PLACE.

THAT'S
WHY I
CAN SEE...



I
CAN'T GET
CARRIED
AWAY BY MY
EMOTIONS,
AND I
CAN'T FEEL
GUILT.

ACTUALLY,
I FIND
IT RATHER
CONVENIENT.



ANY HEART
THAT MIGHT
HAVE FELT SUCH
THINGS...

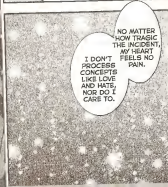
...WAS
LOST A
LONG TIME
AGO.



BUT
WOULDN'T
YOU BE IN
THE SAME
DANGER,
AYA-SAN?

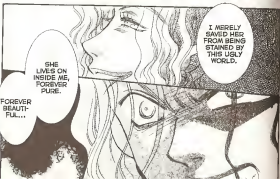
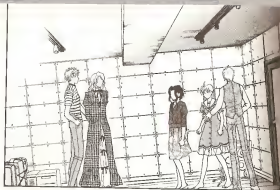


I'D BE
FINE.



NO MATTER
HOW TRAGIC
THE INCIDENT,
MY HEART
FEELS NO
PAIN.

I DON'T
PROCESS
CONCEPTS
LIKE LOVE
AND HATE,
NOR DO I
CARE TO.



KUDO-SAN!?





THE KIND
OF WORLD...

...HITOMI-SAN
WANTED...?

...IN
HELL!!

GO
ROT...

LUNGE



AVENG-
ING
HITOMI!

WH...
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!

CHARGE

NO!!

STOP
!!

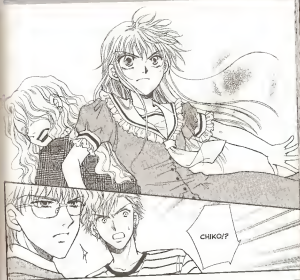
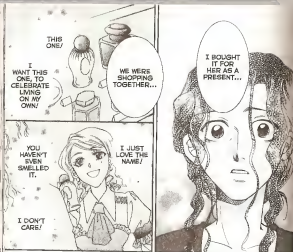
SLICE

BUT THIS
CAN'T BE THE
KIND OF WORLD
HITOMI-SAN
WANTED!

I CAN'T STAND
BY AND LET
THIS HAPPEN

I KNOW
HER SISTER'S
UPSET.

AND I
TERRIBLY
CAN'T
CHANGE
THAT.





THAT
WAS HOW
SHE SAW
LIFE.

HITOMI
...?

FAZE

FAZE



HITO
...

...I'M
SURE SHE
WANTED ONLY
THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
WORLD.

...FOR HER
BELOVED
OLDER
SISTER...



FRENCH
FOR "A
BEAUTIFUL
WORLD."

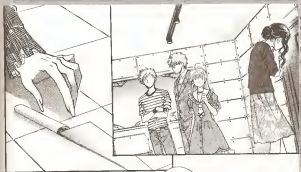
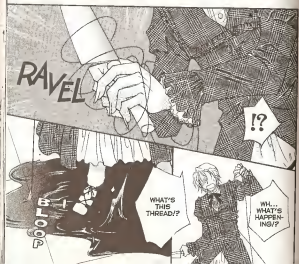


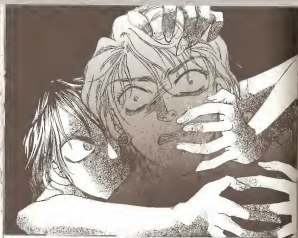
I
KNOW HER
DREAMS WERE
SHATTERED,
BUT...

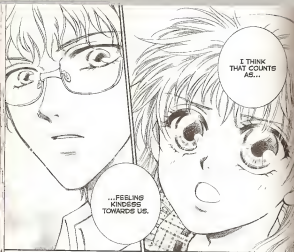
HITOMI-SAN
LOVED
BEAUTIFUL
THINGS.

SHE
WANTED
TO BE
BEAUTIFUL,
TOO.

AND
SHE HAD
BEAUTIFUL
DREAMS
FOR THIS
WORLD.







I THINK
THAT COUNTS
AS...

...FEELING
KINDNESS
TOWARDS US.



INCLUD-
ING THE
IRRIT-
ATION...

...MIGHT
BE CAUSED
BY INHERIT-
ING THE
FIVE
COLORED
THREAD.

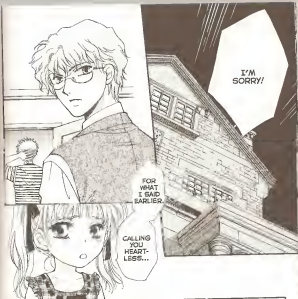
THE
WAY MY
FEELINGS
GET SO
STIRRED
UP...

STILL...

*I'm positive
of that.*

I
ONLY
OJO
THAT
...TO
AVOID ALL ...
THE TROUBLE
IT'D BRING.

CALCULATING



I'M
SORRY!

FOR
WHAT
I SAID
EARLIER.

CALLING
YOU
HEART-
LESS...



YOU TRIED
TO KEEP TSUNA
AND ME FROM
HAVING TO
SUFFER THAT
HORRIBLE
SCENE.

YOU
DIDN'T
WANT
US TO
GET
HURT.

YOU TRIED
TO PROTECT
US, ALL BY
YOURSELF.

YOU
MUST HAVE
FEELINGS.

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT IT.
IT'S NOT
LIKE I HAVE
FEELINGS
YOU CAN
HURT.

I THINK
YOU'RE
WRONG!

CH.
THAT.

OFF RECORDING #1

To those I'm seeing again and those who are new, hello! This is volume 2 of "Bound Beauty".

Since volume 1 was compiled as quickly from the magazine, it feels like I've made you wait a whole lot longer for volume 2. What about's that you say? You weren't waiting at all?

The front cover of this volume is pretty static, and focuses on Chika. A cover featuring Aya would have been more appropriate for such a static composition. But since his main color theme is black and his personality is far more insane and twisted, my editor told me that putting him on the cover of the second volume would kill the series' sales, for sure. As for Akira-san, since he's also simpler and more reserved, he's being pushed to the next volume's cover.

When we apply the legend of the Four Guardians of the Night Sky* to the Five Elements system, the element of Earth is associated with the Gold Dragon guardian of the center. However, he's not very visually distinctive so to distinguish him from the more well-known Blue Dragon, so he's often replaced with the Kirin. This story follows that belief system, so you can see in Horikawa's tattoos.

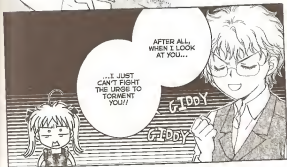
This second volume is far more gory than the first. Well, that's the times we live in, I guess. My manga always have a tendency to wreak havoc like that. Like Gode's done. This would happen while working on my last piece, but every day I work about seeing things as places that would work great for a battle, or objects that look like they'd be fun destroying. I swear, I've gotten used to being told that I don't write typical shounen manga stories!

The first half of this volume, the Fourth and Fifth Bookings, mainly focus on Aya. When I was first thinking up scenes for the Tjerna, I gravitated towards these crime-solving kinds most. I was lucky to get to write exactly what I wanted in them.

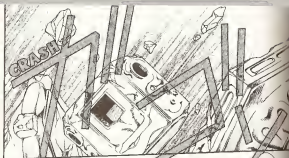
As for the Atris that dominated these pages, there were so many, but the plot's ended up in tears more than once. It's a principle rule in mind outfits that characters to come below the knee.



*See Translator's Notes



15th Booking / end



Stitch Binding



0377

000000000000





STILL!!
I CAN'T
HELP
THINKING
ABOUT
IT!!



I GUESS I
SHOULD EXPECT
HIM TO SPEND
A WEEK AT HIS
GIRLFRIEND'S

PLOP

AND HE
DOESN'T
HAVE TO
LET ME
KNOW.

PLOP



IT'S
SHIROGANE

WHAT'S
MAKING MY
INSIDES
ALL TIPPY
TURVY...

...MIGHT
NOT BE
A VIRUS
AT ALL.



THEN, HOW
ABOUT I
TAKE IT
BACK?

HUM?

EVEN IF
IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT...
...IS
IT RIGHT
FOR ME TO
POSSESS
IT?

THEY
CALL
IT A
SACRED
TREAS-
URE.

AND I
KNOW IT'S
REALLY
VALUABLE.



BUT
I HAD TO.
THE MASTER
DIDN'T COME
HOME!

DOOM



NOW, BE
A GOOD
GIRL, AND
GET SOME
REST!

Screw
you, you
little
brat!!

You're
a pain
for all
others!!



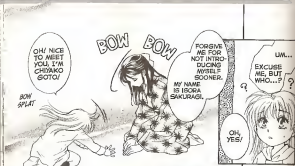
Bye-bye...

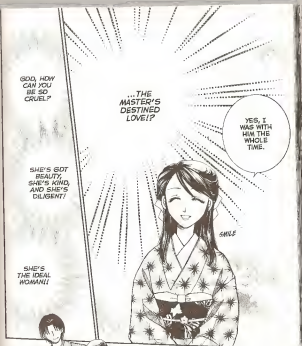


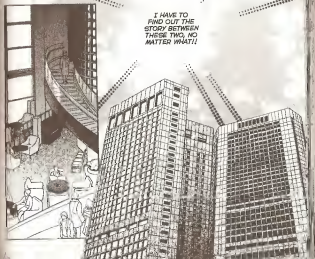
YEAH,
YEAH,
I KNOW.

EVERY
TIME I
SPIN
SHIROGANE,
IT DRAINS
ME.

AND
CHECKING
THE FRONT
DOOR ALL
LAST NIGHT
DIDN'T HELP
MUCH,
EITHER.









I CAN'T
COMPETE
WITH HER!!

I can't even
enter the ring!



AND
HERE I AM,
STUCK IN
THIS CHILD'S
BODY...

...DEPENDS
ON EVERYONE
ELSE WHILE I
JUST CAUSE
TROUBLE!!



NOT ONLY IS
SHE BEAUTIFUL
AND GOOD-
NATURED...

...BUT SHE'S
A TALENTED
NOBLEWOMAN.

SHE'S LIKE
A GODDESS!!



HUH?!

AH!
THERE'S
AKEO-SAN.

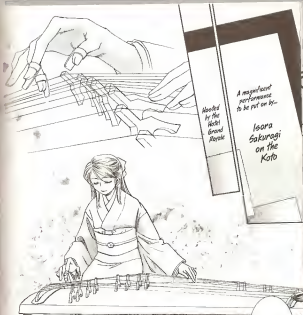


NAS-

SASP!



MASTER!!



Hosted
by the
Hochi
Grand
People

A magnificent
performance
to be put on by...

Isora
Sakuragi
on the
Koto

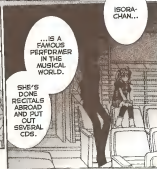


What about
you expect?

SHE'S
THE
DAUGHTER
OF A
PRESTI-
GIOUS
FAMILY IN
KYOTO.

SHE'S REFINED
AND
MUSICALLY
TALENTED.

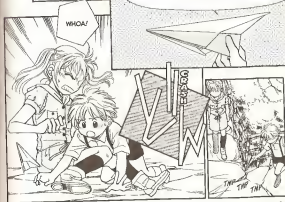
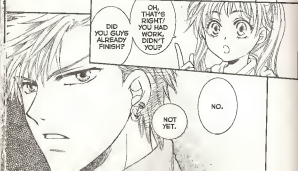
YOU'RE
KIDDING
ME...



ISORA-
CHAN...

...IS A
FAMOUS
PERFORMER
IN THE
MUSICAL
WORLD.

SHE'S
DONE
RECITALS
ABROAD
AND PUT
OUT
SEVERAL
CDs.





AND I'M
ON GUARD TO MAKE
SURE
NOBODY
BREAKS THE
BARRIER!



DON'T
CALL ME
THAT!

SO,
YOU'RE
A WATCH-
DOG.

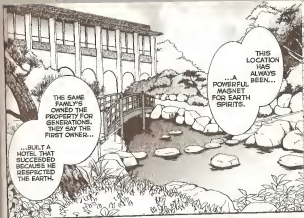


WROOOOM!



THAT'S
WHY...

...WE'RE
JUST SEALING
HIM IN THE
MIDDLE OF
THE LAKE,
FOR NOW.



THE SAME
FAMILY'S
OWNED THE
PROPERTY FOR
GENERATIONS.
THEY SAY THE
FIRST OWNER...

...BUILT A
HOTEL THAT
SUCCEEDED
BECAUSE HE
RESPECTED
THE EARTH.

THIS
LOCATION
HAS
ALWAYS BEEN...
...A POWERFUL
MAGNET
FOR EARTH
SPIRITS.



...AND
THE HEAD
CONTRACTOR
ACCIDENTALLY
DESTROYED
A PIVOTAL
STONE LANTERN.

HE'S TEARING
UP THE LAND
WITH DEVELOP-
MENT...

THE
CURRENT
OWNER'S
MORE OF A
MODERN ENTRE-
PRENEUR.



AN
OLD
EARTH
SPIRIT
...
...IS
DEFINITELY
ON THE
LOOSE.

AYA-NI
SAYS WE
COULD
BE IN
REAL
DANGER
...
...IF
WE TRY
TO TAKE
HIM ON
DIRECTLY.

EVER SINCE
THEN, THERE-
VE BEEN ACCIDENTS
AROUND THE
CONSTRUCTION
SITE.

MORE AND
MORE GUESTS
HAVE BEEN
COMPLAINING
OF GHOST
SIGHTINGS.



AYA-
NI!

AKEO-
NI!

TSUNA!

CHIKO-
CHAN!



ISORA-
SAN...

SEEMS
WE CAN TIE
UP THESE
HANGING
STRINGS OF
FATE FASTER
THAN WE
THOUGHT.

AKEO-SAN
SAID HE'LL
HELP US.



I WON'T
LET ONE
PERSON
PASS ME
BY!

TMP TMP

TMP TMP

VRGOOOOM!



OF
COURSE!

HAVE
YOU BEEN
KEEPING
A TIGHT
WATCH,
TSUNA?

THE ONLY
REASON I'VE
MANAGED THIS
FAR...

...IS BECAUSE
THE MASTER
WAS THERE
FOR ME.



I FEEL
LIKE I
DON'T
BELONG
HERE.

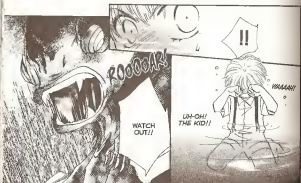


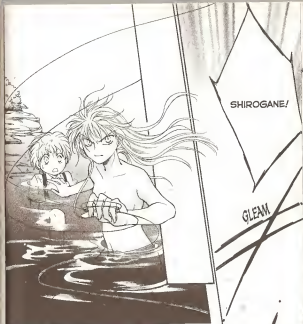
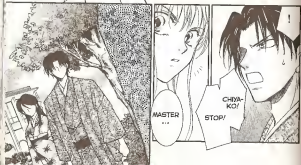
NOW I...



...DON'T
KNOW WHERE
IT'S SAFE TO
LAND.









WHAT YOU FIRST SAW WAS A GATHERING OF MANY EARTH SPIRITS.



WHAT'S GOING ON?!

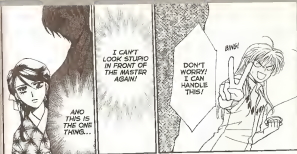
SOME- BODY EXPLAIN!!!



!?



HISSSS!



I CAN'T LOOK STUPID IN FRONT OF THE MASTER AGAIN!

AND THIS IS THE ONE THING...

DON'T WORRY! I CAN HANDLE THIS!

BISS!



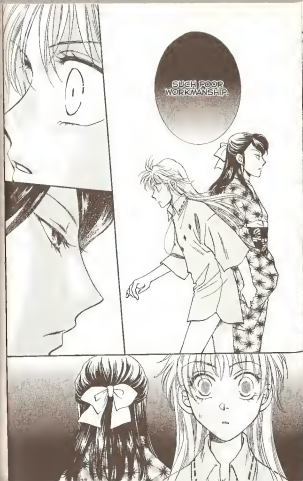
SLICE

I CAN DO THAT SHE CAN'T!!

WREP

PLOP







SEIRAN.

MAY THE
CEREMONY
COMMENCE.

©2001 Translations & Notes

WAIT,
THOSE ARE
THREADS!

IT'S THE
BLUE
MEMBER...

...OF THE
FIVE COLORED
THREADS!!



THE KOTO
IS SAID
TO HAVE
ORIGINATED
FROM THE
PLUCKINGS OF
AN ARCHERY
BOW'S
STRINGS.

DID YOU
KNOW?

RUSTLE



RUSTLE

THE
SOUND
OF A
PLUCKED
BOW STRING
...
POSSESSED
THE
POWER TO
EXORCISE
EVIL
SPIRITS.



RUSTLE

THE
WIND
IS...



...SURROUNDING
ISORA-SAN!!



I OFFER
YOU MY
TYING.

OH, GREAT
STRINGS
OF FATE.

THE
SURROUNDING
TREES...

...ARE ALL
RESONATING
WITH THE
SOUND OF
THE KOTO...

EEEE

REST IN
PEACE ONCE
AGAIN.



OH, MULTITUDE
OF SPIRITS WHOSE
SLEEP WE HAVE
DISTURBED.

MAY THE
SOUND OF
THIS WIND
GUIDE YOU
TO YOUR
SLEEPING
PLACE.

IT
CARRIES
WITH IT THE
PRAYING
OF THE
ANCIENT
WHO FIRST
CARED FOR
YOU.

PLUCK

IT'S...

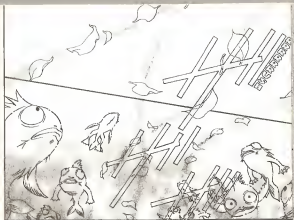
...THE
SOUND
OF A
KOTO?

WHEEE



SHE
POSSESSES
SERAN...

...OF THE
ELEMENT
WOOD.

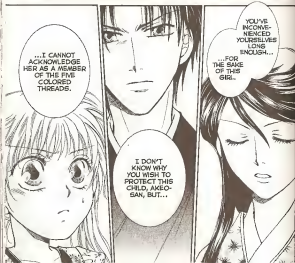


THE EARTH
SPIRITS...

RUSTLE

...HAVE GONE
BACK TO WHERE
THE STONE
LANTERN WAS.







Seventh Binding
漆の縛り



HUH?

I WILL TAKE THE
SHIROGANE AWAY
FROM HER MYSELF.

WHAAAAT!?





A LITTLE!!

YOU'RE DIS-
PLEASED?

THAT'S
NOT FAIR!

I WON'T
LET YOU
DO IT!

MY SPECIAL
POWER'S
ANYMORE?



YOU CAN
SHOVE THAT
IDEA IN YOUR
EAR!!

Heheh...

Boo!



LIFT

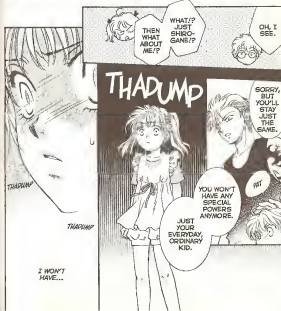
I
SUPPOSE
THERE'S NO
WAY AROUND
IT...

VERY
WELL.



I ONLY
WISH TO SEAL
SHIROGANE'S
POWER.

A PACT
WITH ONE OF THE FIVE
COLORED
THREADS
CANNOT BE
ABSOLVED
UNTIL THE
SPINNER
DIES.



THEN
WHAT
ABOUT
ME!?

WHAT!/?
JUST SHIRO-
GANE!/?

OH, I
SEE.

THADUMP

SORRY,
BUT
YOU'LL
STAY
JUST
THE
SAME.

YOU WON'T
HAVE ANY
SPECIAL
POWER'S
ANYMORE.

JUST
YOUR
EVERDAY,
ORDINARY
KID.

I WON'T
HAVE...



TODAY'S INCIDENT...

...AT THE HOTEL SHOWED IT ALL TOO CLEARLY.

YOU'RE RECKLESS, CARELESS...

...AND KNO-RANT.



HAVEN'T YOU
EXPERIENCED
SIGNS OF
YOUR BODY
REJECTING IT?

AREA

BESIDES
...

Anyone could
see right
through that.

WH...
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

YOUR BODY'S
NOT SUITED
TO HANDLE
SHIROGANE.
IF YOU
CONTINUE
TO USE IT...

...YOU'LL
CAUSE
IRREVOCABLE
DAMAGE TO
YOURSELF!

THE FIVE
COLORED
THREADS
ARE SACRED
TREASURES
THAT
DEMONSTRATE
STRONG
SPIRITUAL
POWER.
THEY'RE
NOT TOYS
FOR LITTLE
KIDS TO
PLAY WITH.

...THE
SAME
WAY MY
FATHER DID.

...HE LOOKED
DOWN ON ME AND
JUDGED ME SO
CRUELLY.

...AND
PRACTICALITY...

LECTURING ME
ABOUT COMMON
SENSE...

...IT'S
DANGEROUS
TO BE IN
POSSESSION OF
SHIROGANE.

FOR
A MERE
CHILD LIKE
YOU...

CHILDREN
SHOULD BE
SEEN AND NOT
HEARD!!

WOOOOW!

...DOOMED
TO BECOME...

...AN EVERYDAY,
ORDINARY GIRL?

THIS MALL'S
ENORMOUS!

IT'S
THE GIANT
MULTIPLEX
EVERYONE'S
BEEN
TALKING
ABOUT.

IT'S
SCHEDULED
TO OPEN IN
A WEEK.

It's just
another
a mall,
and a job.

ABSO-
LUTELY!

...I'LL BE
STAYING
HERE WITH
YOU FOR
THE NEXT
FEW NIGHTS.
I HOPE
THAT'S
ALL
RIGHT?

THAT'S
WHY...

...AND
PROVIDE THE
HEAD OF THE
FAMILY WITH
A REPORT.

...I'D
LIKE TO
OBSERVE
YOU ALL
ON THE
JOB...

AND
WHILE
I'M HERE...

Just
what I
need.

AM
I...

SHIRO-
GANE...

SHE
WASN'T
KIDDING.
I CAN'T
FEEL IT'S
PRESENCE
ANYMORE.



IT WAS
ALSO THE
SITE OF...

...A STRING
OF BORY
MURDERS.



AAAAH!

MURDERS
??

NOT SO
LOUD!!



ONE OF
THE PARK
KEEPERS
...

...KILLED
SOME OF
THE CHILDREN
WHO PLAYED
HERE.



THERE
USED TO
BE A PARK
ON THIS
PROPERTY.

IT WAS
SMALL, BUT
STILL HAD
RIDES AND
SUCH.



DID YOU SAY
POLTERGEIST!?

THAT'S
RIGHT...



EVERY
DAY, IT'S
SOMETHING
NEW.

SHOP
WINDOWS
BEING
BROKEN,
MACHINES
RUNNING
AMOK...

DO
YOU...

...HAVE
ANY IDEA
WHAT'S
CAUSING
IT?

YES, WE
DO...

IF ANYTHING
BAD HAPPENS,
THEY COULD
CANCEL THEIR
FINANCIAL
BACKING!

EXECUTIVE
INVESTORS
AND THE
STOCKHOLDERS'
FAMILIES HAVE
BEEN INVITED
TO PREVIEW
THE MALL
TODAY.

Grand
Opening
Preview
Tour



YOU
HAVE TO
HELP! I don't
ME! I don't do
this my
job!

COOL IT,
MISTER.

YOU'RE LUCKY
YOU'VE GOT THE
FULL CAST OF
THESE HERE
TODAY.

THEY'RE
GUESSING THAT
IT'S THE KILLER'S
GHOST.

EVERYONE'S
AT THEIR
WIT'S END...

...AND SOME
OF THE
STAFF ARE
THREATENING
TO QUIT.

SOME EVEN
SAW HIM
CARRYING
WHAT
LOOKED
LIKE A
BUTCHER
KNIFE.

THE NIGHT
GUARDS
CLAIMED
THEY SAW
THE
SHADOW
OF A TALL
MAN.

SO, YOU'RE
EATING THE
VANDALISM
GOING ON IS
CONNECTED
TO THOSE
MURDER SP?

...RUMORS
OF A
HAUNTING
SPRING UP,
AND THE
PARK WAS
CLOSED.

AFTER
WHAT
HAPPENED
...

THAT'S
WHEN THIS
MALL WAS
BUILT.

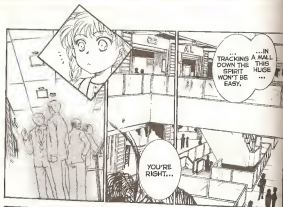


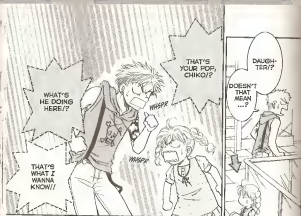
WHEN
THEY
SEARCHED
THE
CHARGED
REMAINS
OF HIS
HOME
...
...THE
BODIES
OF THE
CHILDREN
WERE
UN-
COVERED.

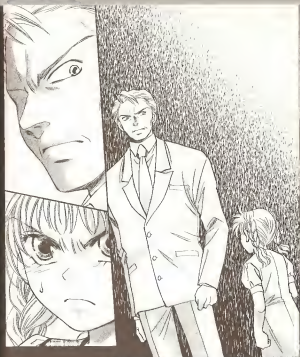
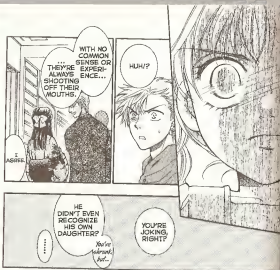
THE
MURDERER
SET HIS
HOUSE...
...AND
HIMSELF
ON FIRE.

ALL
YES.
I
REMEMBER
THAT
STORY.

HOW
HORRID
...







...WHEN I
WAS THIS
LITTLE.

I KNEW
HE'D BE
LIKE
THAT.

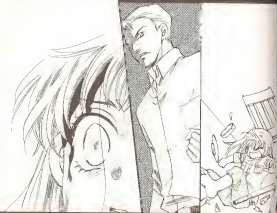
I NEVER
EXPECTED
HIM TO
SMILE AT
ME LIKE A
LOVING
FATHER.

NOT
EVEN...

...HE'S
EVER TAKEN
A GOOD
LOOK AT ME.

IT'S
NOT
LIKE...





...I KEPT
QUIET.

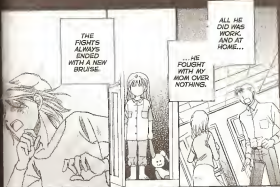
AND SO...



IN
SILENCE.

ALL I
DID WAS
WATCH.

I
STAYED
OUT OF
IT.



THE
FIGHTS
ALWAYS
ENDED
WITH A NEW
BRUISE.

...HE
FOUGHT
WITH MY
MOM OVER
NOTHING.

ALL HE
DID WAS
WORK,
AND AT
HOME...

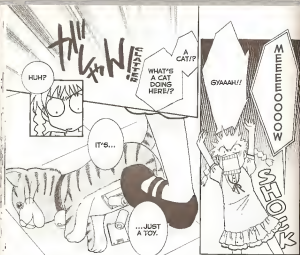


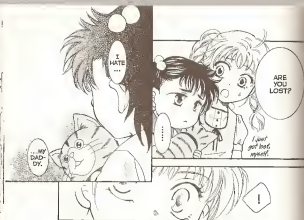
STOP
IT!
DON'T
HURT
MOMMY!



YOU DON'T
SUPPORT THIS
FAMILY! SO
SHUT YOUR
MOUTH!!

WHO DO
YOU HAVE
TO THANK FOR THE
FOOD ON THE
TABLE, HUM?!





...I COULD'VE
SWORN I SAW
SOMEBODY.

JUST
NOW...

THE NIGHT
GUARDS CLAIMED
THEY SAW THE
SHADOW OF A
TALL MAN.

CHILL

TURN

WHY?

CLIK

CLIK

CLIK

THIS
COULD
BE BAD.

...
COMING
CLOSER!

CLIK

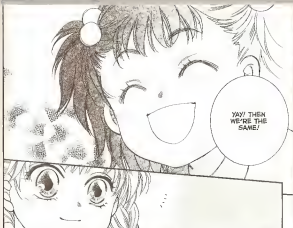
I HEAR
FOOT-
STEPS
...

CLIK

CLIK

SUZUTEN

I CAN'T
EVEN USE
SHIROGANE!



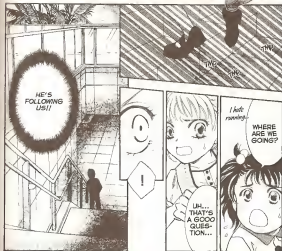
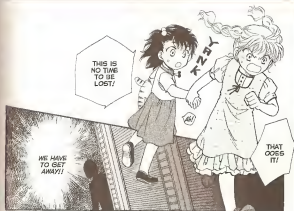
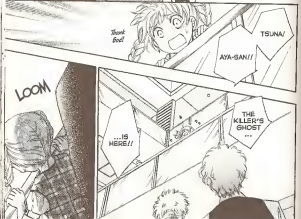
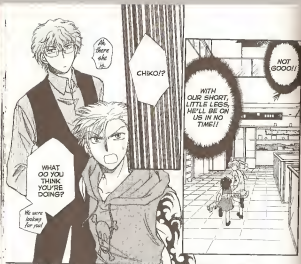
IT'S NOT
SOMETHING
I'D CELE-
BRATE, BUT
OKAY...

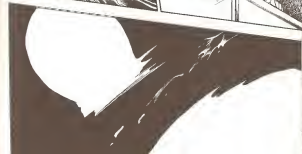
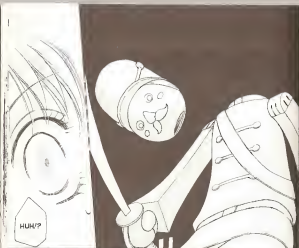
RIGHT
...

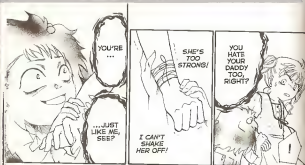
Yess!
You feed
me! ♡

MEOW









PLAY WITH ME, BIG SISTER...

YAY!
THEN WE'RE
THE SAME!



THAT
CAN'T BE
TRUE!

SAVE
ME!

I'M
SCARED!!

IS
SITTING
BY IN
SILENCE...

CAN'T I DO
ANYTHING
BUT WATCH?

...ALL I'M
GOOD FOR?

...AND
WATCH...

IF I STAY
SILENT...

...WILL
GO BACK
TO HOW IT
WAS!!

THEN
MY VERY
SOUL...



I'M
SCARED!!!

IT'S SO
HOT!!



SHE'S
CONSUMED
BY HATE
AND
DOESN'T
KNOW ANY
BETTER.

IT'S A
LOST
CAUSE.

WHY
CAN'T
WE-

ENOUGH.

FWIP

IT'S
CASES
LIKE
THIS...

...THAT
MAKE ME
DISLIKE
CHILDREN.

GUYS
...

SHE
WAS A
VICTIM,
RIGHT?

SHE
DIDN'T
DO ANY-
THING
WRONG.





GROAN



WAAH
...
WAAAAH
...



NOBODY'S
GOING TO
HURT YOU
ANYMORE.

LET'S
GET YOU
HOME.



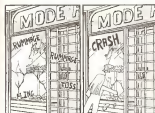
WHAT
ABOUT

...MY
KITTY
...?

HERE.

HOLD
ON TO
THIS.

UNRAVEL



Have some
discreet!

TIME
OUT!

Time-out!

Don't
move!



CLIK

THAT'S
MORE
LIKE IT!

YOU
SHOPLIFTER!

TRANSFOR-
MATION
COMPLETE!

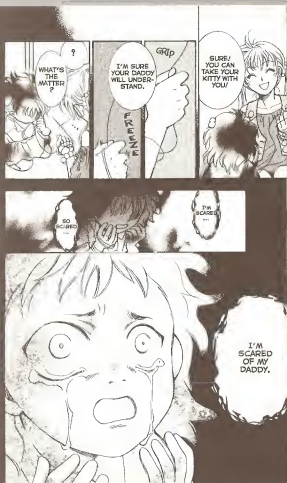
T
A
D
A!

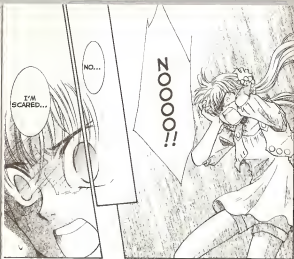


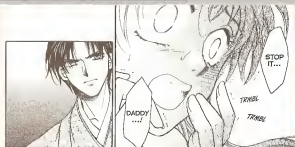
You better
give that
right back!

You really
are a
grumpy
risk girl.

You just had
to rub the
transformation
outfit.

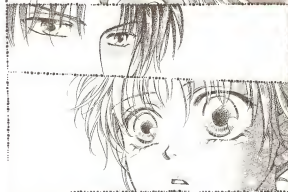
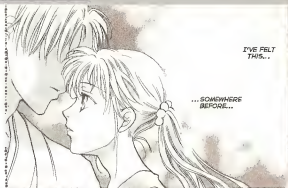
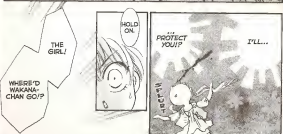






HUG







I COULDN'T
SAVE HER...

...BECAUSE
I LET GO OF
SHIROSAKE.

OFF RECORDING #2

The first member of the Fire Colored Threads team showed up in the Sixth Binding chapter. I wanted her to play a classic Japanese instrument, so I decided to go with the koto. However, I've never actually heard it played in real life before, so I made a half-minute reproduction of a roudo of one. To fill some time during intermission, I wandered around the hotel where the performance hall was, and ended up using it for the setting in the story. I love how I never put any experience to waste.

The Seventh Binding chapter was one scary event after another. I feel I must apologize for that. I'd originally written the one to take place over three chapters, and was going to feature them all together in the next volume—ah, wait. Witnessing Chika's family background, it really is only one fragment of the whole story. Please read the rest of the series to find out more.

Now, as for the covers, we've had Chika and Tsune so far...and if we keep up this theme of featuring one member of each of the Five Elements on the covers, that means this series should continue to at least five volumes. At least...I hope it works out that way. Everybody's support is a heavy factor in the realization of that dream, so please stick with me from here on in! I'm serious. And I'll be doing my best to exhibit that support from you all with more interesting stories and action-packed fun!

OFFICIAL WEB SITE
[MIX ★ SPACE]
<http://id74.net>

I'm waiting to hear your impressions!
Get them
190247 Monthly Price, Issue 200
Agiore Hills, CA 91303

SPECIAL THANKS
TAKI IARI, MIU CHAN, DOKUMI, HITANI, MITSUKO,
RUI, KANINA, MARU, KUSATOCH, CHITARA,
MY FAMILY...and YOU!



Seventh Binding / end

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

Fig. 27 – Kokaryu

This is Aya's thread, the black one. It means "black current", to reflect the connection of his thread with water.

Fig. 131 – Seiran

This is Isora's thread, the blue one. It means "blue storm", telling tale of its blue and wind-based characteristics.



Chiko faces her greatest foe yet, one not even Fokeo can protect her from...



The head of the
Myoonji family that
runs the Tyers!!

**Bound
Beauty**

In the next

THE SOUL **go!comi** OF MANGA

FROM YOU HIGURI

CREATOR OF

Controlla

CROWN

Can this
princess regain
her crown...

...without
losing her
heart?

FOUR GUARDIANS OF THE NIGHT SKY

You may have noticed strange symbols on the back covers and chapter breaks of *Bound Beauty*. There's even one tattooed on the body of Tsuna on the first cover! And yet these symbols have yet to be mentioned in the course of the story. What are they – and why are they there?

They come from the Chinese legend of the *Four Guardians of the Night Sky*. According to ancient Chinese astronomy, the fantastic beasts depicted in the symbols reside in four quadrants of the sky: North, South, East and West. Each quadrant represents an element, a season, and is associated with an animal deity that serves as its guardian. These animal deities are the red bird (*suzaku*), the blue dragon (*seiryu*), the black tortoise (*genbu*), and the white tiger (*byakko*).

You may have noticed that the symbol tattooed on Tsuna's body doesn't match any of the beasts mentioned above. (It looks like a cross between a horse and a demon – but what is it really?) We'll explain his symbol in a moment, but first take a look at the chart below, which outlines the relationship between each symbol and the characters in the story to whom they have been visually (if not verbally) connected.

Character	Color	Element	Animal	Position	Season
Aya	Black	Water	Tortoise	North	Winter
Akeo	Red	Fire	Bird	South	Summer
Isora	Blue	Wind	Dragon	East	Spring
Chiyako	White	Metal	Tiger	West	Fall
Hirotsuma	Yellow	Earth	Kirin	Center	N/A

Hirotsuma is the "odd man out" as he is the fifth member of four-symbol legend. However, there is another legend deeply entwined into the fabric of *Bound Beauty* – that of the *Five Elements* that are used in connection with the Colored Threads, one of which each Tye in the story represents. It is by combining the *Five Elements* with the *Four Guardians* that we create a place for the Earth element that Tsuna wields – as the "center point" of the combined legends. (A rather honorary position for a scamp like Tsuna!) His corresponding animal is the "kirin", the Eastern equivalent to the Western unicorn, only with a draconic flair.

Whether or not the symbols of these mythological beasts will play into the plot has yet to be seen, but at the very least, it would be nice to see all the male characters stripped down to the waist, sporting full-body tattoos down their backs! (Well, one can hope...)